

REMARKS

Claims 1-30 are pending in this application. Independent claims are 1, 11, 20, and 26. Applicant has canceled claims 20-25.

The examiner uses Richards and Alkhatib to reject claims 1-3, 7, 8, 10-17 and 19 as having been obvious.

Claim 1, as amended, recites "establishing a second session between the destination computer system and the forwarder/relay service, the forwarder/relay service maintaining the second session if the first session is temporarily lost and re-establishing the virtual connection when then first session is re-established." At least this quoted claim feature is totaling absent from the applied references.

The examiner argues the following:

example (see column 11, claim 1 and column 12, claim 14); Richards discloses restoring previously working states from reference states in a transparent way (column 1, lines 42-61).

Applicants are unable to find any restoring previously working states from reference states in a transparent way at col. 1, lines 42-61 (reproduced below), or anywhere in Richards.

However, due to devices that enhance the security of networks such as firewalls, the ability to support on-line help over the Internet is typically limited to one-way communications initiated by one or more clients to a server. The firewall selectively permits the communications to pass from one network to the other, to provide bidirectional security. Firewalls have typically relied on a combination of two techniques to protect the network: packet filtering and proxy services. In packet filtering, the firewall selectively controls the flow of data to and from a network using rules established by a network administrator that specify what types of packets such as those to or from a particular IP address or port are to be allowed to pass and what types are to be blocked. Alternatively, a proxy may be used. The proxy is a program, running on an intermediate system, that deals with servers such as Web servers and FTP servers on behalf of clients. Clients, e.g. computer applications that are attempting to communicate with a network that is protected by a firewall, send requests for connections to proxy-based intermediate systems. Proxy-based intermediate systems relay approved client requests to target servers and relay answers back to clients.

The examiner goes on to argue:

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Service is maintained the server and the service provider will be on a waiting state response for the client and the system allows the client to reestablish connection in case of interruption (column 10, lines 23-40; see also claim 21). Richards et al does not explicitly disclose assigning

Applicant's claim 1 does not claim "waiting." Applicant's claim 1 recites "the forwarder/relay service maintaining the second session if the first session is temporarily lost." As one skilled in this art recognizes, a session waiting is not a session lost; a session lost is not a session waiting. Richards does not teach or suggest the forwarder/relay service maintaining the second session if the first session is temporarily lost.

Alkhatib also fails to teach or suggest the cited claim feature. Alkhatib also discloses waiting at col. 1, lines 34-46:

As requests come in for DNS resolution of the server's domain name, the IPNet Gateway records the domain of the requesting client and the name of the requested server, and returns its own address as the destination address for the requested domain name. This DNS response is set as non-cacheable to prevent the association between the IPNGW IP address and the domain name of the target server beyond the anticipated following transaction from the client. As soon as the IPNGW responds to the DNS request it enters into a waiting state anticipating a connection from the client to the specific server identified in the DNS request. Subsequently, the client establishes a connection with the IPNGW, which in turn relays the connection request to the server.

The examiner admits this in his argument, reproduced below:

discloses the use of gateway as firewall (see column 1, lines 32-33). Alkhatib et al further discloses using a waiting state by allowing the first session to retry to re-establish connection while the service maintains a session with the server, for example (see column 6, lines 11-23; column 5, lines 31-57; see also figure 3). Alkhatib et al adds that a time period for connection

The examiner directs applicant to the above lines (reproduced below) of Alkhatib. However, these lines reaffirm applicant's position that Alkhatib does not maintain the second session if the first session is temporarily lost and re-establish the virtual connection when then first session is re-established, but creates a new connection when an old connection times out:

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10 removed from the list of pending connections and new
requests from the domain will be entertained. Experimentation has shown that the time for connection establishment is approximately 4 seconds (dependent on distance and traffic). In general, locked out requests will be dropped
15 instead of being explicitly denied so that the locked out clients will have another chance to connect when their DNS retries. In this case, the only noticeable change in service would be a momentary slowness during DNS resolution. However, if many clients are trying to establish connections
20 from the same domain at the same time, it is possible that some of these clients will time-out before a connection slot becomes available.
It is important to note that the total number of simultaneous connections is not constrained: only the total number
25 of simultaneous new connections is constrained.

Assuming there is a suggestion to combine Richards and Alkhatib, and there is no such suggestion, the resultant combination would be a method of entering a waiting state and establishing a new connection if an old connection is dropped. No combination can teach or suggest establishing a second session between the destination computer system and the forwarder/relay service, the forwarder/relay service maintaining the second session if the first session is temporarily lost and re-establishing the virtual connection when then first session is re-established. Accordingly, claim 1 is not obvious in view of Richards and Alkhatib, whether taken separately or in combination.

Claim 11, as amended, recites "maintaining the session between the forwarder/relay service and the destination computer system if the session between the source computer system and the service is lost." Claim 26, as amended, recites "maintain the session between the forwarder/relay service and the destination computer system if the session between the source computer system and the forwarder/relay service is lost." For at least the reasons described with respect to claim 1, claims 11 and 26 are not obvious in view of Richards and Alkhatib, whether taken separately or in combination.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific rejection, issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or

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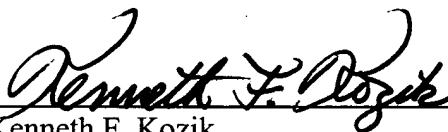
other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

Please apply any charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, reference 10559-227001.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _____

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